FREE EAST TIMOR JAPAN COALITION

TL0991

His Excellency Dr. Mario Soares
The President of Portugal
Assembleia da Republica, Palacio de Belem, 1200 Lisboa, Portugal

January 27, 1989

Dear President Soares,

We are a coalition of eight groups in Japan working for a just solution to the East Timor conflict. Last year for the first time, we sent our representative to United Nations Special Committee on Decolonisation to submit a petition on East Timor. According to newspaper reports, you will be visiting Japan in February to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito as will many world leaders including President Suharto of Indonesia.

The outspoken stance which you yourself and other members of the Portuguese government have taken on the East Timor issue has been encouraging. We know from our contacts with the Japanese Foreign Ministry that it has been well noted by countries such as Japan. The very clear statement made by Foreign Minister Pinheiro at last year's United Nations General Assembly will surely be a rallying point for international support for the rights of East Timorese people. Here in Japan, the Portuguese Ambassador, Dr. José de Mello-Gouveia, graciously accepted last December to meet with a member of Fretilin, Mr. José Guterres, who was in Japan on a speaking tour.

It is our fervent wish that the gathering of world leaders in Tokyo on February 24, will provide many opportunities for spreading understanding of the plight of the Maubere people and for garnering support for principled solution guranteeing those Maubere people the right to exercise self-determination and to achieve their independence.

Sincerely yours,

FREE EAST TIMOR JAPAN COALITION

東チモールに自由を！全国協議会

善通寺東チモールと連帯する会　〒765 善通寺市文京町3丁目2-1 四国学院大学宗教部筒井洋一郎気付
東チモールの独立に連帯する会　〒606 京都市左京区吉田下阿達町9 きょうと・市民のネットワーク内
仙台東チモール会　〒980-01 仙台市一番町1丁目仙台中郵便局私書箱569号
東チモールの声を聞く会　〒700 岡山市下伊福1丁目2-28 松尾充芳方
東京東チモール協会　〒180 武蔵野市中町1丁目2-9-302
名古屋YWCA東チモールを考える会　〒460 名古屋市中区新栄町2-3
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